

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled Claims 33-78 and submits that Claims 1-32 should be examined. More particularly, Applicant hereby traverses the election requirement as to Claims 1-19 and 20-32, and provisionally elects Claims 1-19.

In this regard, Applicant notes that Independent Claim 1 is an apparatus claim directed towards a plurality of syringe bodies interconnected by a flexible belt and that Independent Claim 20 is a method claim directed towards handling a plurality of syringe bodies attached to a flexible belt.

As such, restriction is only proper if one or both of the following can be shown:

(A) that the process *as claimed* is not an obvious process of the making of the product and the process *as claimed* can be used to make other and different products;

or

(B) that the product *as claimed* can be made by another and materially different process.

MPEP §806.05(f), emphasis original.

Independent Claim 1 requires a plurality of syringe bodies each having a barrel, wherein a flexible belt is attached to each barrel. Further, in Claim 1 the syringe bodies are positionable in a predetermined orientation, wherein one end of each barrel is accessible. Independent Claim 20 requires the steps of positioning a plurality of syringe bodies in a predetermined orientation and attaching a flexible belt to a barrel of each syringe wherein one end of each barrel is accessible. Neither independent claim requires the labeling or printing of content-related information on the syringe bodies as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant submits that the method of Independent Claim 20, cannot be utilized to make other and different products from the apparatus of Claim 1. Additionally, the apparatus of Claim 1 cannot be made by a materially different process

from the method of Claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant submits that restriction between Claims 1-19 and 20-32 is improper and respectfully requests that Claims 1-32 be examined.

Applicant further notes that Claim 20 is a linking claim that, if allowed, would prevent restriction between inventions. That is, Claim 20 properly links the process and product claims and prevents restriction. See MPEP§ 809.03(B).

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for examination and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARK-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An apparatus [bodies] comprising:
a plurality of syringe bodies, each comprising a barrel; and,
a flexible belt fixedly [connected to each] attached to each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies, wherein said plurality of syringe bodies are position[ed]able in a predetermined orientation and at least one end of each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies is accessible.

9. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim [8] 1, wherein said belt comprises:
opposing layers adjoined in face-to-face relation between adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies and wrapped about opposing sides of the barrels of each of said plurality of syringe bodies.

11. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in Claim 10, wherein said opposing layers are adhesively adjoined, and wherein at least one of the opposing [layers] layers is adhesively connected to the barrels of the plurality of syringe bodies.

20. (Amended) A method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies, comprising:
positioning a plurality of syringe bodies[,] in a predetermined orientation; and,
[interconnecting] attaching a flexible belt to a barrel of each of said plurality of syringe bodies in said predetermined orientation, wherein one end of each said barrel of said plurality of syringe bodies is accessible.